

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bar-code reader comprising:  
a reading unit that reads a bar code optically to thereby acquire  
a scan data;  
5 a decoding unit that processes the scan data to thereby decode  
contents of the bar code;  
a storing unit that stores the contents of the bar code if the  
contents of the bar code is management information that is information  
about any one of hardware of and software installed in the bar-code  
10 reader.
2. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the reading  
unit scans the bar code by shifting a position of irradiation of laser  
beam on the bar code.  
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3. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the reading  
unit is an optical touch scanner.
4. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a  
20 communicating unit that reads, if there is a request for the management  
information from an external terminal, management information  
corresponding to the request from the storing unit and transmits the  
management information read to the external terminal.

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5. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the storing unit is installed in a position that enables reading by the reading unit and a management-information bar-code with contents same as the management information is attached to the storing unit.

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6. The bar-code reader according to claim 4, wherein a label-setting area is provided for setting the management-information bar-code and the reading unit reads the label-setting area selectively when management information is to be acquired.

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7. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to the bar-code reader.

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8. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to a component of the bar-code reader.

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9. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a version of the bar-code reader.

10. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a version of a component of the bar-code reader.

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11. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information includes a version of software installed in the bar-code reader.
- 5 12. The bar-code reader according to claim 1, wherein the management information is date and time of replacement of a component of the bar-code reader.
13. A bar-code reader comprising:
- 10 a communicating unit that receives management information from an external unit, the management information being information about any one of hardware of and software installed in the bar-code reader; and
- a storing unit that stores the management information received
- 15 by the communicating unit.
14. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the communicating unit reads, if there is a request for the management information from the external terminal, management information
- 20 corresponding to the request from the storing unit and transmits the management information read to the external terminal.
15. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to the
- 25 bar-code reader.

16. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a serial number assigned to a component of the bar-code reader.

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17. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a version of the bar-code reader.

18. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a version of a component of the bar-code reader.

19. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information includes a version of software installed in the bar-code reader.

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20. The bar-code reader according to claim 13, wherein the management information is date and time of replacement of a component of the bar-code reader.

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